

## COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, the following Senators were appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session: the Honourable Messieurs Belcourt, Daniel, Prowse, Robertson, Sharpe, Tanner, Buchanan, Willoughby, and the mover.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, February 11, at 8 p.m.

## THE SENATE

Monday, February 11, 1929.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### THE NEW CONSERVATIVE LEADER

Hon. P. POIRIER: Honourable gentlemen, before the Orders of the Day are called, I think it is but proper that I should inform you that our friend the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) has been unanimously chosen by the senators on this side of the House as their leader. I need not tell you that he is fully qualified to occupy the position. I will say, as the Italians have it, "Fara de se."

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to extend my congratulations to the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) upon his selection as leader of the Conservative party in this Chamber. I am quite sure that the honourable members on this side of the House join heartily their colleagues opposite in welcoming the honourable gentleman in his new position. It is needless for me to emphasize the fact that he has all the qualifications necessary for the functions which he may have to perform. Since he has been among us he has shown a judicial mind of a high order, and we have benefited by his counsels in the various committee rooms and in this Chamber as well. His high legal training had already been observed by his fellow members of the Bar and, I am told, had more than once attracted the attention of the Minister of Justice to the desirability of securing his services for the Bench in the West.

My honourable friend has shown to a considerable degree that detachment from party

passions to which I have so often alluded in this Chamber. The temperament of the leader of the Left in the Senate is necessarily different from that of the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. In the Commons the Opposition leader speaks not merely for his following in that House, but for that body of public opinion which they represent. He there advocates principles and policies which he intends to submit to the people at the first opportunity. On the other hand, the leader sitting to the left of His Honour the Speaker in this House criticizes proposed legislation with a view to its improvement, and he may deem it his duty even to move to defer legislation which he considers hasty. The Opposition leader in this House is not, as in the other Chamber, the leader of an organized Opposition. The makers of our Confederation pact had in mind a Senate in which the parties would not be opposed to each other as in the popular House. It was Sir John A. Macdonald who viewed the Senate of Canada as a revising body instituted to modify and improve legislation emanating from the House of Commons, to check or delay hasty legislation until the people had a chance to pronounce upon it, and to give the Commons an opportunity to re-examine legislation considered objectionable. Sir John A. Macdonald clearly stated his idea that there could be no official Opposition in the Senate of Canada, when he said that he viewed the Senate as rather inclined to be sympathetic to the measures of the Government of the day, because the Government of the day represented the will of the people. I have had occasion to say that the human equation was not in his mind at the time, and perhaps it is a better Senate that does not show too clearly its sympathy with the Government, because it is then able to express its criticism more freely. Be that as it may, I have noticed that the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw has generally approached questions with a single eye to the obligation of the Senate to improve the legislation that came from the other Chamber. He may at times have felt it his duty to advise delay, but I am not sure that he did very often. At all events we on this side of the House have always listened attentively to his remarks, and with considerable pleasure and profit.

We on this side are most happy to see our honourable friend leading the Conservative thought in this Chamber. There is here no official Opposition, but there are two trends of opinion, called Liberal and Conservative, and my honourable friend represents the Con-